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The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

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Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 28 July 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement on the situation in Afghanistan issued on 14 July 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yves **Doutriaux**
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 28 July 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the situation in Afghanistan issued on 14 July 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union condemns the recent resumption of wide-scale hostilities in Afghanistan.

Recalling the provisions of its Common Position of 24 January 2000, the European Union points out that the continuation of the war flies in the face of the many appeals for peace by the international community. A fresh escalation of fighting would bring unacceptable suffering for the peoples of Afghanistan, already seriously affected by severe drought, and show blatant disregard for the efforts made by donor countries to assist them.

The European Union is seriously concerned that the military operations are impeding the provision of humanitarian assistance to the Afghan population. The deliberate denial of access to humanitarian aid constitutes a breach of international humanitarian law. The European Union calls upon all factions involved in the conflict to guarantee safe and unhindered access to the civilian population.

The European Union firmly believes that the present conflict cannot be resolved by military means. It urges the various factions to stop fighting and work, with United Nations help, on a political process capable of restoring peace. It is closely following current efforts to set in motion a Loya Jirga process with the broadest possible involvement of Afghan civil society.

The European Union reiterates its calls to Afghanistan's neighbours to desist from any interference in the conflict. It has itself had in place an embargo on arms for Afghanistan since 1996.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.